

6,299,469) in view of Ledbetter (US 4,420,211) and Chishima et al. (US 5,820,404). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 1 claims a second housing half which is adapted to be locked with the first housing half at a prelocking position, and wherein the second housing half is adapted to be moved on the first housing half to a final locking position. The examiner has admitted that Glovatsky does not show a prelocking position of the two housing halves. The examiner then states that such a feature is well known and widely used in the art of electrical connectors using Ledbetter as a reference.

Ledbetter, however, does not disclose or suggest a second housing half which is adapted to be **locked** with the first housing half **at a prelocking position**. 26 and 28 in Ledbetter are merely an alignment pin and an alignment cavity. The alignment pin 26 and alignment cavity 28 in Ledbetter do not lock the bottom member 12 to the top member 12t at a prelocking position. The alignment pin 26 and alignment cavity 28 of Ledbetter merely appear to perform the same function as the alignment posts 50 and recesses 52 in Glovatsky. As the examiner has admitted, Glovatsky does not show a prelocking position of the two housing halves.

Applicants' attorney also hereby challenges the examiner's "Official Notice" mentioned on page 3, line 5 of the office action mailed 06/15/2007. In accordance with MPEP §2144.03 the examiner is requested to cite a reference in support of his position.

Even if such a reference is found by the examiner, the examiner still needs to establish a *prima facie* case to justify why it would be obvious to combine the reference with Glovatsky to render applicant's claimed invention obvious. It is believed that, absent a showing by the examiner, there would be no justifiable reason why such a reference would be obvious to combine with Glovatsky.

Though dependent claims contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 11 claims that the second housing member is adapted to be **locked** with the first housing member at a **prelocking position**, and that the second housing member is adapted to be moved on the first housing member to a final locking position. As noted above with respect to claim 1, The examiner has admitted that Glovatsky does not show a prelocking position of the two housing halves. Ledbetter also does not disclose or suggest a second housing half which is adapted to be **locked** with the first housing half at a **prelocking position**. 26 and 28 in Ledbetter are merely an alignment pin and an alignment cavity. The alignment pin 26 and alignment cavity 28 in Ledbetter do not lock the bottom member 12 to the top member 12t at a prelocking position. The alignment pin 26 and alignment cavity 28 of Ledbetter merely appear to perform the same function as the alignment posts 50 and recesses 52 in Glovatsky. As the examiner has admitted, Glovatsky does not show a prelocking position of the two housing halves.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington 9/13/07
Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686) Date

Customer No.: 29683
Harrington & Smith, PC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

September 13, 2007
Date

Debra Longatti
Name of Person Making Deposit